

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Saint John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Where we all flourish'

From diverse beginnings and building on our Christian values, we grow together to reach up and reach out. Our vision is that Saint John's Church of England Primary School is a place where we all flourish and grow. Our logo of a tree reminds us that we are 'like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love.' Psalm 52:8. Our tree logo is drawn with one line, showing that we flourish together, helping each other as we develop and grow and prepare for our next steps, reaching up and out towards others.

Saint John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The deeply rooted Christian vision fosters a harmonious and loving community. Pupils and adults flourish because their unique talents are nurtured and celebrated.
- Leaders craft an aspirational and inclusive curriculum that inspires pupils to grow. Rich experiences prompt pupils to challenge themselves, develop new skills and explore their spirituality.
- Daily collective worship draws the school and wider community together. Pupils and adults deepen their understanding of the vision and values because of the exciting and meaningful reflections.
- Strong bonds of friendship, love and wellbeing promote flourishing. Leaders maintain a culture that is enriched by collaborative partnerships and support where required.
- The Christian vision inspires a well-planned curriculum for religious education (RE). Teachers are supported to plan engaging and enquiry led activities underpinned by good subject knowledge. As a result, pupils enjoy RE and demonstrate high levels of respect when sharing their learning.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities for pupils to initiate responses to injustice. This is to deepen their understanding of how their actions can make a difference in the world.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Inspired by the vision, leaders are driven to maintain a loving, successful and aspirational culture that celebrates diversity. This enfolds pupils and adults within a community dedicated to growth and mutual support. Pupils readily describe themselves as flourishing leaves on a tree, highlighting their understanding of the vision. They openly share the ways in which they grow and how trusted adults care for them. The high levels of respect for the rich variety of cultures and beliefs within the community underpins relationships. This creates a trusting and harmonious school ethos. Dedicated adults collaborate positively with local organisations. These beneficial community links enrich the life of the school. The strong partnership with the diocese enhances the Christian vision whilst providing access to staff training. Pupils also benefit from memorable visits to the cathedral. Governors support leaders through their effective strategic decision making and insightful evaluations.

Vision and Curriculum

Adults have high aspirations when weaving the vision and values through the curriculum. Their expert knowledge and positive partnerships within the community benefit pupils. Activities like outdoor learning or visits to the local literary festival enrich learning and skills. Well-chosen topics increase pupils' knowledge of their local area, and their place in the wider diverse world. As a result, some pupils can speak with expertise about the history of Cheltenham. Teachers support pupils to flourish academically and spiritually because they offer exciting and challenging experiences. Beneficial opportunities to learn vital life skills or to connect with the natural environment build confidence. This also means that pupils' curiosity is strongly encouraged. Where pupils require specialist support, staff sensitively and expertly adjust provision. Teachers skilfully adapt activities and work closely with parents. Consequently, those facing challenges are nurtured to achieve personal successes. High quality displays and detailed newsletters promote a love of learning and growth. Weekly and termly celebration assemblies celebrate the richness of the curriculum and pupils' enjoyment. These draw the community together and are appreciated by parents.

Worship and Spirituality

Close, mutually beneficial relationships with local clergy shape the worshipping life of the school. Regular visits to neighbouring churches are highly valued, providing moments to explore Christian festivals. Carefully planned themes create opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of the rich diversity of Christian practice. Engaging Bible stories are memorable for pupils due to the creative presentations using drama and songs. These are further explored in the lunchtime club, an inclusive, church-led provision to engage with the Bible. Those leading worship are sensitive to the variety of religious and non-religious beliefs within the school community. Their use of invitational language reinforces the harmonious atmosphere that welcomes all. The pupil worship committee enthusiastically model actions for songs. This leads to spiritual flourishing because singing is joyful and uplifting. Valuable reflections upon the vision and values enable pupils to contemplate thankfulness and their respect for others. This is further enhanced by the school's shared understanding of spirituality that highlights the importance of connections. Consequently, pupils and adults can explore their own beliefs and flourish spiritually.

Vision and School Culture

Inspired by the vision, leaders nurture an unwavering culture of love and growth. Carefully agreed policies regarding behaviour and relationships for pupil safety are consistently promoted. Governors regularly evaluate the ways that the vision enhances the life of the school. Their wise strategic decisions consider the wellbeing of adults and pupils. For example, supporting leaders to establish 'The Nest' to nurture the most vulnerable. The use of specialist resources or programmes help pupils to regulate and learn about their emotional wellbeing. The school community offers a safe space for pupils to express themselves and feel valued. They are able to thrive because they are supported to be confident, unique individuals. This prompts them to challenge themselves and feel proud. Within social times, relationships and play are positive. Pupils care for each other, calling upon the embedded restorative language if required. Older pupils thrive when contributing to the provision of drama club for their younger peers. Staff wellbeing is prioritised by leaders. They benefit from



dedicated time for professional development alongside sensitive personalised support. As a result, staff flourish, show commitment to the school and dedication to the community.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Adults carefully utilise worship and the curriculum to teach about justice. Vision inspired learning activities and wisely selected resources support pupils' awareness of the presence of injustice. By learning about pollution and sustainability, pupils are deepening their understanding of the need for action. For example, litter picking in the local area. Pupils can share strong views underpinned by the values of caring and citizenship. In addition, they delight in opportunities to serve others such as class monitors, school councillors or the worship committee. These responsibilities build pupil resilience, confidence and an understanding that they can make a difference. Some pupils speak passionately about injustice and how they could improve the lives of others, for example, providing access to food or shelter. Despite rich activities for learning about injustice, there are infrequent opportunities for pupils to initiate projects and make a difference.

Religious Education

Leaders prioritise the aspirational curriculum and planning for RE. They proactively collaborate with local subject leader networks and diocesan colleagues. This ensures that the curriculum is regularly reviewed and evaluated. Teachers benefit from professional development and well organised resources, enabling them to deepen their subject knowledge. The curriculum encourages enquiry-based activities to extend pupils' awareness of Christian beliefs and worldwide practice. Therefore, learning supports pupils to explore new information whilst reflecting on their own thoughts. For example, exploring the meaning and variety of Christian symbols. In addition, adults provide valuable opportunities for pupils to encounter people who share their faith. This provides enjoyable occasions for deeper enquiry and an understanding of religions and non-religious worldviews. Such times are memorable for pupils who share their enjoyment of an older peer explaining his faith. Leaders guide teachers to link RE with other subjects such as dance and art. This embeds knowledge and facilitates spiritual connections. Governors effectively evaluate the impact of RE on pupils through regular meetings and visits.

Information

Address	Albion Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 2SN		
Date	22 October 2025	URN	115669
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	177
Diocese	Gloucester		
Headteacher	Victoria Beevers		
Chair of Governors	Barry Lambert		
Inspector	Helen Crolla		